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New Agriculture Act Supports S&E Efforts

Late last month the President signed into law the Agricultural and Food Act of 1981. He said that the Act recognizes the importance of the marketplace and emphasizes the great export potential of American agriculture. He highlighted agricultural research and extension services as significant programs for which funding is authorized.

In general, the new legislation continues the S&E efforts provided for by the 1977 law. However, there are a number of changes directly related to science and education. The Act:

- Requires that 50 percent of the membership on the Joint Council be land-grant university representatives. Nominations for the new positions created by this requirement have been requested from NASULGC;
- Requires an assessment of future food and agriculture needs and a Joint Council five-year plan for Research, Extension and Teaching defining strategies to meet these needs. The Secretary may ask the council to conduct the assessment;
- Authorizes for the 1890 schools, a building fund of \$10 million a year for the next five years. S&E now is developing the protocol for making the grants under the provision;
- Adds four more producer members to the Users Advisory Board;
- Requires that an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Research and Education be appointed;
- Requires that the Hatch Act be funded at a level at least equal to 25 percent of the funding level for all agricultural research;
- Authorizes a rangeland research program;
- Authorizes a research and extension program in aquaculture.

FY 1982 Budget

The President signed the Agriculture Appropriation Bill for FY 1982 on December 23rd. This will allow us to operate more normally during the remainder of the fiscal period than was possible under the Continuing Resolution Act. Compared to the Continuing Resolution Act, the appropriation provides slightly larger funding authorization for Science & Education and is closer to the levels recommended by the Conference Committee. Basically, the appropriation is:

- \$48.4 million over the FY 1981 Appropriations;
- \$91.7 million over the FY 1982 Budget submitted by the President in September;
- \$20.6 million over the existing Continuing Resolution Act; and
- \$19.3 million below the FY 1982 Conference Committee Action.

This budget is not everything we would like, but it is relatively good in terms of other agency appropriations. We are grateful to the Secretary for his continuing support of Science and Education.

The budget also reflects Congress' continuing support for agricultural research and education and its recognition of the essential nature of these functions in maintaining the productivity and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

The following is a comparison of the FY 1982 Appropriation to the FY 1981 Appropriation, as well as to key mark-ups to the FY 1982 Budget, by S&E agencies.

Fiscal Year 1982

	<u>FY 1981 Appropriation</u>	<u>September Budget</u>	<u>Conference Action</u>	<u>Continuing Resolution thru 3/31/82</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
ARS	\$426,831	\$401,781	\$444,410	\$426,983	\$434,410
Building & Facilities	--	1,672	8,596	8,252	8,596
CSRS	200,897	206,085	225,548	216,526	221,216
ES	292,269	279,293	320,702	307,874	315,702
Higher Education	11,500	--	--	--	--
NAL	8,822	8,158	8,750	8,400	8,750
Total, Science & Education	<u>940,319</u>	<u>896,989</u>	<u>1,008,006</u>	<u>968,035</u>	<u>988,674</u>

Joint Council to Discuss Policy and Planning Issues

Deputy Secretary Lyng will meet with the Joint Council January 14 to discuss agricultural science and education policy issues. During the meeting the council will work to identify the most critical policy issues it will try to resolve in 1982.

The national extension committee will participate in a combined seminar on food and agriculture technology transfer efforts and techniques to improve the transfer of information from the laboratory to users.

The council also will discuss its role in carrying out the needs assessment and five-year plan required by the new farm bill.

UAB Budget Review Meeting Scheduled

The Users Advisory Board will meet next month to discuss the administration's FY 1983 budget proposals which will be announced February 8. The UAB is required to appraise the proposed budget for the food and agricultural sciences each year and report its recommendations to the President and Congress.

Secretary Block soon will be appointing new UAB members to fill positions left vacant when former members' terms expired. In addition to these vacancies, there will be four additional producer representatives on the board as a result of the new Agricultural and Food Act.

CSRS to Hold an On-Site Operations Review

A team of reviewers representing the four experiment station regions, the 1890 schools, non-land-grant agricultural colleges, and the fields of veterinary medicine, forestry, and home economics will conduct an on-site review of CSRS operations in Washington, February 8-12. The reviewers will meet with various staff groups, and will study the staffing, organization, mission, and function of CSRS. The results of the review will be submitted to CSRS Administrator Walter Thomas. The team's recommendations are expected to be very helpful to CSRS as it looks for ways to provide more effective administration of the Federal-State partnership programs.

Steven C. King Retires

ARS will lose an exceptional administrator when Steven C. King retires later this month. Now serving as the Northeastern Regional Administrator, Dr. King began his USDA career in 1956 as national coordinator of regional poultry breeding projects at Purdue University. Prior to that he was associate professor of Animal Genetics and Poultry Husbandry at Cornell University.

Committee Formed to Advise Secretary on Future of Extension

Secretary Block is establishing a Joint Committee on the Future of Cooperative Extension to advise him on policies and programs affecting the mission, future scope, and priorities of the Federal-State-local cooperative Extension system. The committee's first meeting will be January 27-29. The agenda will include a review of background studies and a discussion of issues to be addressed. Committee members will represent university presidents, deans of colleges of agriculture and home economics, directors and administrators of State Extension programs, county agents, Extension users, USDA, and foundations supporting agricultural work.

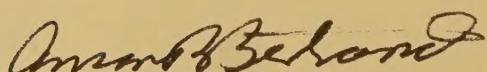
R&E Committee Update

The two subcommittees of the Research and Education Committee of the Secretary's Policy and Coordination Council held their first meetings recently.

The research and technology subcommittee made decisions on several topics which had been referred to it for review. Topics discussed included research and technology barriers to program achievement by USDA action agencies; long-range priorities and plans; technological innovation rates and productivity; transportation of agricultural products; agricultural trade policy; small farms; animal welfare; nutrition research; genetic engineering; and others.

The extension subcommittee addressed topics such as technology transfer; farm income and cash flow problems; weather; grain storage; animal production systems; and the use of micro-computers on the farm.

Standing committees which will report to the R&E executive committee include the animal health sciences research advisory board, the historically black colleges task force, the national agricultural pesticide impact assessment program steering committee, the national plant genetic resources board, and the steering committee for new initiatives in home economics.



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